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CITY PAGES

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FEATURE **BEST LATE-NIGHT** HAPPY HOURS

A crudely calculated guide to late-night drinking and eating in the Twin Cities By Jerard Fagerberg

NEWS

THE SHORTLIST Gas tax hikes in history

BLOTTER Body cam bill at the Legislature

MIKE MULLEN Amazon in Shakopee

FOOD

BIG RIVER PIZZA Is everything you love about pizza

A-LIST

SKYLINE MINI GOLF The Walker brings its annual event to the terraces

31 FILM

X-MEN **APOCALYPSE** The end is not nigh

33 THEATER

QUEENS A boxer seeks freedom in the rina

35 MUSIC

SOUNDSET Four up-andcomers to catch

CRITICS' PICKS

38 CLASSIFIEDS

SAVAGE LOVE CROSSWORD

cover credit

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EDITOR Pete Kotz MANAGING EDITOR Hannah Sayle WFB FDITOR Michael Rietmulder NEWS FDITOR Mike Mullen MUSIC EDITOR Jay Boller ARTS EDITOR Jessica Armbruster STAFF WRITERS Susan Du, Cory Zurowski FOOD CRITIC Mecca Bos COPY CHIEF Bridgette Reinsmoen PROOFREADER Bryan Miller CLUBS EDITOR Frik Thompson CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Jerard Fagerberg, Jay Gabler, Sheila Regan, Jack Spencer, Youa Vang CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS Galen Eletcher Alma Guzman Bruce Kluckhohn, E. Katie Holm, Sasha Landskov Shelly Mosman Tony Nelson, Colin Michael Simmons

Art

ART DIRECTOR Emily Utne LAYOUT EDITOR Holly Hilgenberg

Production

DESIGN MANAGER Dana Holmay SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER Teri Springer

Publisher

Mary Erickson

Advertising

SALES DIRECTOR Leah Parkinson AGENCY SALES MANAGER Tony Englund SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Leah Carson. Kevin Lenhart, Nick Rupar, Brian Thunberg ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Sydney Ashton, Trista Blodgett, Kevin Boulware, Jacob Johnston, Liz Walker SENIOR MULTIMEDIA ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Mike Yanke DIGITAL PRODUCT MANAGER Kibra Paulos AGENCY ACCOUNT MANAGER Joey Ryan ACCOUNT MANAGERS Annie Butler, Lindsay Sipe

Marketing and Promotions

MARKETING DIRECTOR Holly Hunt MARKETING COORDINATOR Lacey Richgels

Circulation

CIRCULATION MANAGER Tom Imbertson

Business and Administration

ACCOUNTING CLERK Candace Baker

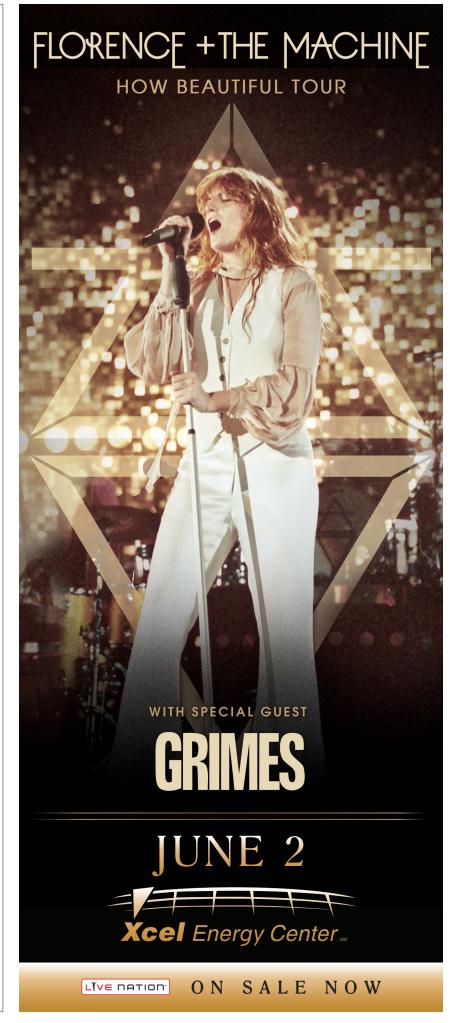
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THE SHORTLIST



THE STAT SHEET

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Average price of gas per gallon in the U.S., the lowest it's been since 2005

Number of times the Minnesota gas tax was increased from 1963 to 1988

Number of times the gas tax has increased from 1988 through 2016

\$330 million

Transportation funding in a construction project bill that died on the final night of the legislative session

"Having just moved here from New York, I can say with authority that Minnesota is still in the embryonic stage of money-grubbing whoredom."

Reader Christy Conklin responds to reader Greg Smith's comment that Minnesota is the "land of 10.000 money-grubbing whores" on citypages.com.

FEAR MONGERS

LAST WEEK, a report on high rates of latent tuberculosis among Somali immigrants in Minnesota made the rounds of right-wing

Valley News Live in North Dakota started it with a "refugee investigation," followed by Breitbart.com lamenting that immigrants are "welcomed in and pose a risk of infecting the rest of the American population." The Centers for Disease Control doesn't back up this fear-mongering: "Persons with latent TB infection are not infectious and cannot spread TB infection to others." Tuberculosis is scary. A more imminent threat? Viral xenophobia.

POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

ACME COMEDY CO. facing closure, relocation due to proposed real estate development

TARGET sues Michael Turner, man who rescued teen stabbing victim

FOURTH PRECINCT COPS had (by far) the city's worst discipline record to start 2016

BEYONCÉ'S unapologetic Formation Tour takes TCF Bank Stadium by storm

Look at the stats, and the **MINNEAPOLIS** PARKS BOARD doesn't seem very racist

CAMERA OBSCURA

Legislature passes body cam bill, but you won't be seeing much footage

he case for putting body cameras on cops is pretty self-evident. People need to know what the hell really happened, as soon as possible, when an unarmed person is shot and killed by a police officer.

Being denied that how and why while heads spin and emotions boil tends to make people want to take over the streets and occupy a police precinct until they get their answers.

But implementing body cams has been a nightmare balancing act between government transparency and citizens' right to privacy.

The beat cops during last November's Jamar Clark occupation had no idea how to handle that. Without body cams, footage of the Clark shooting pieced together from businesses and ambulances was fragmented, pixelated, and silent.

There was no state law on the books that clearly outlined when video had to be released, and whether doing so would hinder a criminal investigation.

Last week, legislators passed a bipartisan bill that gives police departments guidance on using body cameras. The bill establishes what's to be considered public versus private video footage. Cop-civilian interactions on public ground, where the cop either used a dangerous weapon or beat somebody up, would be public. Everything else: private and confidential.

Anyone caught on camera would have the right to look at the footage. If they want a copy of it, others who were filmed but do not consent to its release must have their faces blurred from the copy, their voices bleeped out. Cops who are only accused of unprofessionalism — for example, cussing out a civilian, or anything else that's just

short of substantial bodily harm (whatever that means) — can also request anonymity.

Individual police departments get to make up a lot of their own rules, including when the cameras have to be rolling, what consequences cops will face if they're not, and who will be in charge of collecting, withholding, and editing that footage.

A whole lot of people aren't happy about the bill. They include some of Minnesota's strongest advocates for body cameras, such as the NAACP and the ACLU.

"A bill that is going to be passed by this legislature needs to be the right one, a bill that strikes a balance between privacy, transparency, and accountability," Minneapolis NAACP president Nekima Levy-Pounds testified in front of the state legislature last week. "And unfortunately SF 498 does not do that. It weighs too heavily in favor of law enforcement."

Rep. Tina Liebling (DFL-Rochester) echoed the same concerns about the many public access limitations.

"This is about whether the public, mainly the news media, is going to be able to look at what the police are doing and review arrests that are made, and kind of get an overall view of how the police are conducting



The body cam bill the Minnesota Legislature just passed isn't about everyday police accountability.

themselves," Liebling said.

"My general view is that most police departments are really struggling to do the best job they can. But it's also really, really important that the public have confidence that's what the police are doing. And that's when it becomes really important that the public have access." —SUSAN DU



A Suspicious Package

How big business eats a small town

ast year, Shakopee resident Kathi Mocol was informed that Amazon.com was sending an unexpected package her way. Mocol was taken aback. She hadn't ordered anything.

She thought about refusing the delivery, especially when she learned the company wanted to charge her for it. Then Amazon changed its mind: Keep it, the company said. It's free!

Today, this huge box remains unopened, sealed. Mocol thinks it might get opened sometime in July.

Her unexpected delivery? A warehouse. "[Amazon] needed to go somewhere," says Mocol, a first-term Shakopee City Council member. "And they had already made a commitment to Minnesota."

Shakopee seemed an odd choice for Amazon to locate one of its "fulfillment centers," the giant warehousing and shipping facilities that make online shoppers' laziest dreams come true. For starters, Mocol says, Shakopee was running out of land: Amazon literally took the last available piece in town.

What's more, Shakopee, population 37,000 and a bedroom community for commuters to the Twin Cities, didn't have anything near the 1,000-strong workforce Amazon was looking for. Even before Amazon's arrival, local businesses complained they couldn't find enough workers.

And some of those gigs might even be good ones. The ones at Amazon's fulfillment centers are notoriously brutal. Of the thousand jobs in Shakopee, the bulk of them will be "fulfillment associates," meaning the people who scramble to find, collect, and package the items an online shopper just

purchased with a click. These are rushed onto a conveyor belt that delivers them to the back of waiting semi-trucks.

A job listing for an associate gig at the Amazon plant in Shakopee says the employee will have to have "customer-obsession" to succeed. What that means is speed: Associates, or "pickers," are all competing against each other to find and ship as many items as they possibly can for 10 hours at a time. Each staffer's work is meticulously measured; fall behind the pace and you're fired. All that for \$12.50 an hour.

"Are these good-paying jobs?" asks Shakopee City Council member Matt Lehman. "Some. Are the majority? No."

In exchange for this "job creation," Amazon wanted its back scratched. The company initially sought about \$6 million in tax subsidies before it would agree to build the fulfillment center. This, from the highest-valued retail company in the world (\$247 billion), was a bit much, even for business-friendly Shakopee. Council members criticized the proposal, and the public and press howled.

Amazon spokeswoman Nina Lindsev couldn't say with certainty how these negotiations compared with other company projects.

"We typically do engage with local city and state elected officials, and economic groups to help go through the process," Lindsey says.

Typically? Try always. In the last few vears, fulfillment centers have broken ground in Florida, Illinois, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and, in 2013, in Kenosha, Wisconsin, each backed by multimilliondollar tax carve-outs.

A huge corporation taking root throughout the country, always with its hand out, hiring tens of thousands of low-paid employees with no job security. It'd be a scandal, if so many of us weren't reaping the benefits. Amazon's 50-odd fulfillment centers employ about 90,000 people. More than 50 million Amazon Prime users spent an average of \$1,000 each on the website last year.

Then there's the sad truth that this is just how business gets done in America. Especially, of late, in Shakopee.

Indeed, Shakopee landed a series of big-business openings in a short period. Shutterfly, the online photo publishing company, opened a new operation there, as did DataCard, which makes credit card printing machines, SanMar, a clothing distributor, and Trystar, makers of electrical equipment. Those moves and others all came within a four-year flurry of economic activity.

These relocations were no accident. Under former mayor Brad Tabke, the city aggressively pursued businesses. The companies received a total of millions of dollars in tax subsidies from the city or Scott County, and the state's Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) helped sweeten the Shutterfly deal, which came with \$3 million in total public subsidies.

Finally, with Amazon, they drew the line. Hours before the crucial council vote last May, Amazon pitched a softer deal: Nearly \$6 million of its tax payments will be rerouted to the county and the city to build up infrastructure, especially roads, around the warehouse site, instead of back to the company.

Tabke, the former mayor, declined to comment, saying he would defer to "elected



Mike Mullen

officials." It's a curious response. The current mayor, Bill Mars, wasn't on the job when the city inked its deals with Amazon and other companies. Tabke was.

Tabke's new job speaks for itself. In February, a month after he left office, Tabke launched Grepoli, a consulting business that caters to corporations looking to strike a deal with local government. Its website says Tabke will see business proposals, even the "politically dicey" ones, through the process of getting "the best deal" - and not for the taxpayers.

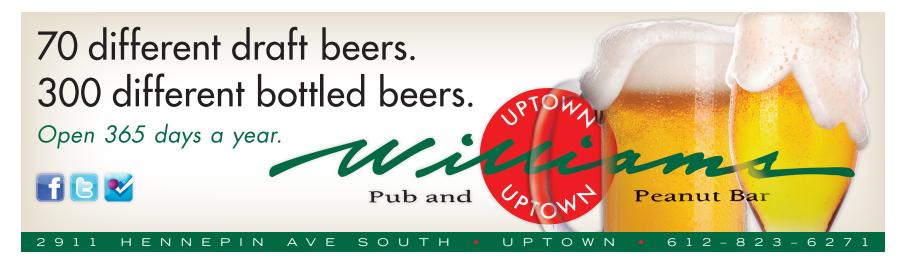
"Feel the love," Tabke's website advertises. "We can help you earn incentives for your project."

Earned or not, incentives are there for the taking, a fact Tabke knows better than most, having rubber-stamped them throughout his time in office. This last one, for his biggest business partner yet, was thwarted, and only because an exhausted but awakened public turned it down.

We shouldn't blame Tabke for exiting the revolving door right into his new consulting gig. He's a product of his environment. For corporate America, the closest thing to a fulfillment center is city hall.

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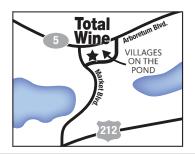


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A CRUDELY CALCULATED GUIDE TO LATE-NIGHT DRINKING AND EATING IN THE TWIN CITIES

BY JERARD FAGERBERG

etting a buzz on is a fantastic feeling, and yet it's only half as intoxicating as saving money. Better still is that magical hour when both sensations are amplified, a mythical half-state when it's close to midnight, your buzz is waning, there's only one crushed fiver left in your dungarees, and you're plotting your next deal.

Menu scribes call this time late-night happy hour. Sometimes marred by confusing, irregular hours, or shrouded in questionable math (is a \$5 cocktail a discount at all?), late-night happy hour is nevertheless a gamble we love to take. At its heart, it's a value assessment, a cold, hard cost/benefit analysis.

We're here to decode that elusive bangto-buck ratio for all you moonlit ramblers and gamblers. Here are the best bets for late-night happy hour in the Twin Cities.

Prices and menu items are subject to change.

MINNEAPOLIS

Nightingale

11 P.M. TO 1 A.M. DAILY 2551 LYNDALE AVE. S., 612-354-7060 NIGHTINGALEMPLS.COM

Stumbling distance from CC Club and Bulldog Uptown, Nightingale is way more upscale than its environs necessitate. With tufted leather barstools and sleek wooden chandeliers, it looks more like a West Elm than a Whittier bar. But Nightingale's 14(!) weekly hours of latenight deals offer an average discount of over 30 percent off the regularly priced epicurean fare. This place blows budget watering holes out of the water in the midnight hour.

It's too bad the burger/fries/Hamm's combo that makes their afternoon happy hour so popular isn't offered at night, but their famous fries with malt vinegar aioli (\$4, 33 percent off), chicken wings (\$7, 22 percent off), and bruschettas (\$5.50, 27 percent off) are handily discounted, as are rail drinks and tap beers (\$3.50, 42 percent off). Overall, this is a great stop if you feel like redeeming your Friday





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with some upscale grub and cocktails.

Bang-to-buck ratio: 4:1

Pair this: The daily cocktail is one of those \$5 cocktails you can trust. It's usually 90 percent alcohol and goes great with \$2 oysters - a perfect aphrodisiac for some late-night canoodling.

The Lowbrow

9 P.M. TO 11 P.M. TUES. TO FRI. 4244 NICOLLET AVE., 612-208-0720 THELOWBROWMPLS COM

Nothing feels more comfortable than saving a buck on getting blotto, and south Minneapolis scratch-cookin' kitchen the Lowbrow knows this better than most. Though here the miracle of late-night happy hour is celebrated only eight hours each week, the discounts on craft beer (\$2 off drafts) and wine are generous enough to make you feel the warmth.

There's a bevy of rib-sticking snacks to help you power through the spins, like Asian pork sliders (\$8.50) or bison chili cheese fries (\$6.25 or \$8.25), though you won't get them for any cheaper after the sun retreats. Luckily, the famous nachos (50 percent off) are available on the cheap, meaning you don't have to pay full price for the grease your stomach needs.

Bang-to-buck ratio: 5:3

Pair this: Wine and nachos. A glass of Protocolo Blanco seems fancy even though it costs \$3 and you've been using it to rinse seasoned pork nachos (\$4.88 for a half order, \$6.50 for a full order) down your gullet.

Stanley's Northeast Bar Room

10 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT DAILY 2500 UNIVERSITY AVE. NE., 612-788-2529 STANLEYSBARROOM.COM

Stanley's NE is more than just the spot where you can drink with your dog, it's also a great place to score barbecue and beer when all the Northeast taprooms are shut The Lowbrow's famous nachos come cheap after dark.

down. You can show up to Stanley's damn near any time after dark and expect to get a deal cut your way. Apps are cheapened in tiers, with small guys like fries and tots coming in at a meager \$3, mini corn dogs and cheese curds running \$4, quesadillas and chicken tenders \$5, and BLTs and onion rings \$6. These prices go into effect at 10 p.m. on normal days, but if you're a middle-of-the-week kind of barfly, deals are good all day on Wednesday.

The booze discount is a simple and indiscriminate \$1 off all beer, wine, and cocktails after 10 p.m. every day. You can't drink for full price after 10 p.m. on any day, and that's valid 'til midnight, even on weekends. What a heavenly concept.

Bang-to-buck ratio: 3:1

Pair this: The \$6 beer-battered mushrooms (normally \$9.50) are a great balance of grease and gourmand, especially when they're plated next to a sweating 20-ounce pour of Stanley's Shandy (\$4.75, \$1 off).

Hola Arepa

10 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT TUES. TO SUN. 3501 NICOLLET AVE., 612-345-5583 HOLAAREPA.COM

Sometimes it's easy to forget Hola Arepa makes more than one thing. While the arepas — the Colombian/Venezuelan cornmeal sandwiches the Kingfield restaurant has staked its name on - are culinary miracles, they're also dense. If you indulge after 10 p.m., you're knocking back the food equivalent of an Ambien. That's why Hola's glorious late-night menu (which is in play 12 hours per week) includes more pliable snacks like yuca fries (\$4, \$1 off) and chips and a trio of salsas (\$3, \$2 off).

Oh, and of course there's the booze.





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Hola is famous for its brunch bloodies. but the old fashioned (\$6, 25 percent off) — which subs in anejo rum for half the whiskey in the recipe — is an equally tempting turn on a classic. If you're not into spirits, local standbys like Indeed Shenanigans and Steel Toe Size 7 come off the taps at \$3.50 (42 percent off), and house wines are only a few shillings more at \$4 (\$2 to \$2.50 off).

Bang-to-buck ratio: 4:1

Pair this: On a warm night, take to the patio for arepitas (little corn balls stuffed with goat cheese and jalapenos, \$6) and seasonal sangria (\$6, \$2 off), a combo that nearly totals the price of a dinnertime arepa.

Bradstreet Neighborhood Craftshouse

9 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT SUN. TO THURS. 9 P.M. TO 2 A.M. FRI. AND SAT. 1930 HENNEPIN AVE., 612-871-1200 BRADSTREETCRAFTSHOUSE.COM

Bradstreet's mission is to be the best neighborhood bar in all of Minneapolis. The recently minted Lowry Hill "craftshouse" is well on its way to being a favorite stop for those with a hankering and barely more than lint in their pockets. With a looming patio expansion, they'll soon extend their drink offerings to an even larger crowd of cheapskates - especially



LUCY HAWTHORNE

on Friday and Saturday, when they drop prices for an astonishing five hours both nights. How many happy hours do you know in the Cities that go straight through to the witching hour?

The general managers at Bradstreet just unveiled a new late-night menu earlier this month, and it's somehow even better than their historically kind price list. The Sophisticati (\$5) returns, a favorite among Sustainable sushi gets a sensible markdown for late-night diners at Kyatchi.

patrons of the craft lounge in the Graves Hotel, and this time it's joined by \$6 draft cocktails. Yes, these are cocktails on tap,

an innovation to help lessen the burden on Bradstreet's drinkmakers, who are obsessively exact. If you feel like saying thank you to the staff, share the happy hour love by paying \$10 to buy the kitchen a six-pack of Hamm's.

Bang-to-buck ratio: 4:1

Pair this: Upcycle your whole goddamn evening. A Sophisticati - which is a Hamm's with a sidecar of Old Overholt Rye, Fernet Branca, or Cynar — and a plate of bacon candy (\$6) is a master class in turning coal into diamonds.

Kyatchi

10 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT DAILY 3758 NICOLLET AVE. S., 612-236-4429 KYATCHI COM

Late-night happy hour shouldn't be about sacrifices. This is a philosophy that Kingfield sushi bistro Kyatchi lives 14 hours per week, every week. With a slick, minimalist vibe, this authentic Japanese joint fills quickly for its after-work happy hour, but late at night, the stools and four-tops are cleared for savvy tipplers.

Kyatchi's exact happy hour offerings are hard to track, as the baseball-worshipping upstart's menus are subject to the whims of the chef. The tonkatsu sandwich (\$5.50) is a common offering, as are various sushi rolls (choose from four varieties for \$5-\$8).







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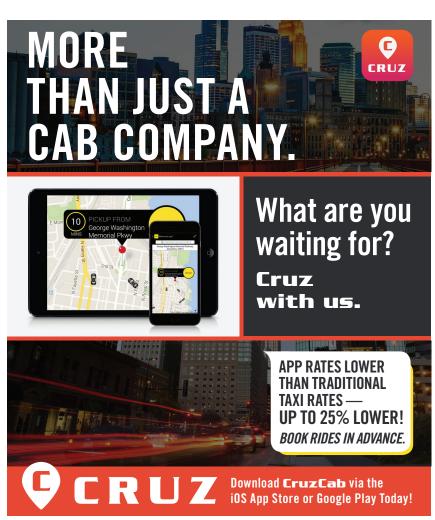
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Eat Street Social offers NYC charm at Eat Street prices.

The marquee item is the chirashi sashimi, which offers glistening, fresh, sustainable fish served over sushi rice for a measly \$10. Sake and milky nigori sake are just \$5. The prices aren't cut-rate (they top out around 20 percent off), but Kyatchi is a rare spot that doesn't discount quality along with the price.

Bang-to-buck ratio: 2:1

Pair this: A kimchi hot dog and Asian potato salad (\$9) are great if you can't do raw sockeye or albacore at 11 p.m. That funky ballgame duo might not be marked down, but taps — including Insight Hell Chicken yuzu pale ale — are opened for \$2 less.

Eat Street Social

10 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT MON. TO THURS., 11 P.M. TO 1 A.M. FRI. 18 W. 26TH ST., 612-767-6850 EATSTREETSOCIAL.COM

Bar close is a lot earlier in Minneapolis than it is in New York City, but you can still get a quintessentially Brooklyn drinking experience at this Whittier lounge. Typically, that includes the NYC price tag, but that's not the case during the 10 nighttime hours per week that Eat Street Social lowers the rates to let the bargain-hunting riff raff in.

Cocktails are knocked down to the

\$4 to \$7 range and sangria pours are \$5 per glass. On busy nights, they'll open the curtain to the tiki bar, where you can enjoy \$1 off tap selections in the shadow of a stuffed marlin. Purchasing a \$10 bottle of wine at the right time can keep that happy-hour feeling rolling past the midnight deadline right up until last call.

Bang-to-buck ratio: 5:2

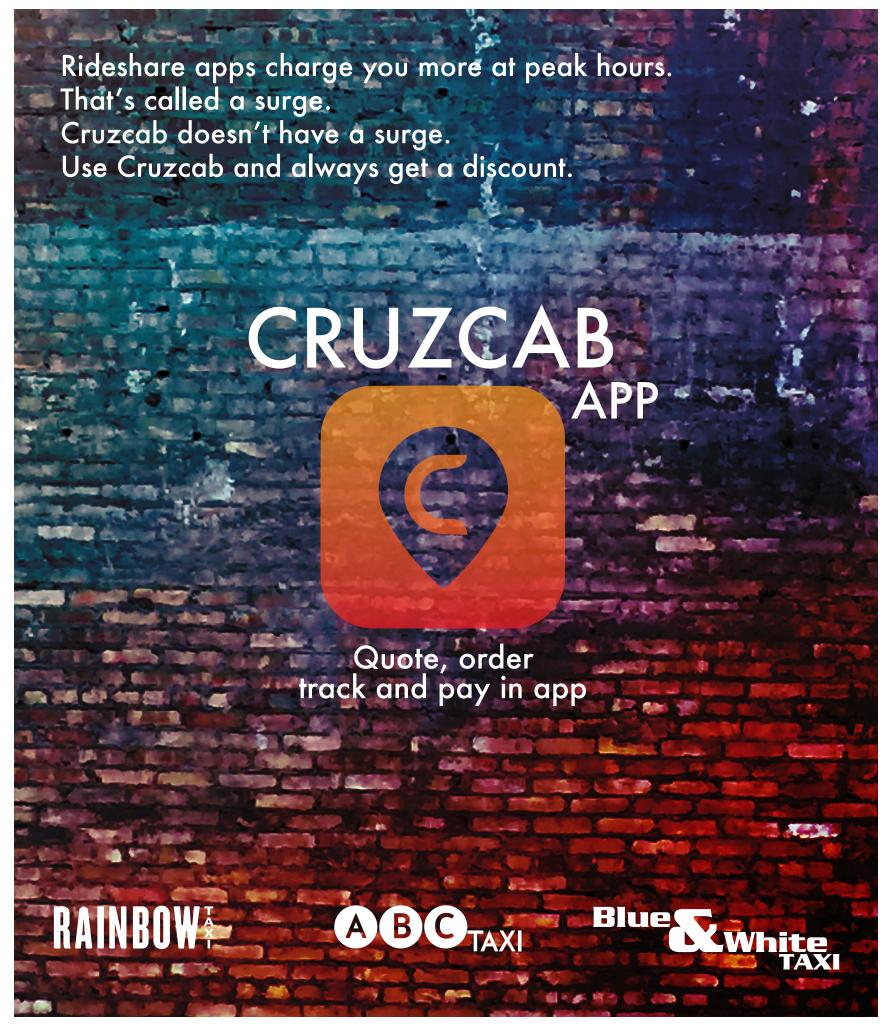
Pair this: Get the \$5 fried calamari and a \$6 Spring Fever, for a total savings of \$11. Just note that the kitchen isn't always open past 11 p.m.

Kindee Thai

8:30 PM TO 9 PM SUN TO THURS 8:30 P.M. TO 10:30 P.M. FRI. AND SAT. 719 S. SECOND ST., 612-465-8303 KINDEETHAIRESTAURANT.COM

While Kindee's name literally translates to "eat good" in English, the Mill District Thai stop is also the place to have a good drink after dinner hours. Feeling something like an IKEA in Bangkok, the Downtown East eatery is adorned with khom loi lanterns and serves gussied-up versions of pad see yew and Thai curries. Though happy hour is a measly half-hour long five nights of the week, Kindee makes up for it with two hours of budget beer and wine (\$3, \$4, and \$5, depending on brand) on the most important nights, Friday and Saturday.

During happy hour, you can really feel the kitchen staff's playfulness. Tamarind wings (\$4, 43 percent off) and tempura sweet potatoes (\$3, 40 percent off) are great examples of how Kindee infuses east Asian flavors into American comfortfood packaging. Choose a chilly bottle of TsingTao (\$4) to pair with it or go with









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regional American adjunct favorite Mich Golden Light for a dollar less. The food sits at a happy crossroads of fine dining and takeout, which means even the drunkest version of you will be satisfied.

Bang-to-buck ratio: 3:2

Pair this: Cranberry cream cheese Wontons (\$3,50 percent off) are a rich, crushable interpretation of the Asian classic (they taste like a fried bagel). Go full authentic and order a super dry, pale Chang (\$4, \$2 off) to drink along with them.

Zen Box Izakaya

9 P.M. TO 10 P.M. MON. TO THURS. 10 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT FRI. AND SAT. 602 S. WASHINGTON AVE., 612-332-3936 ZENBOXIZAKAYA.COM

The legends of kaiju and anime make for good company when you're enjoying ramen after dark. Although the original Zen Box closed after an 11-year tenure in the skyway in 2015, its action-figure-studded sister in Downtown East has become a yuppie haven for its quirky decor and deep nightly discounts.

Zen Box Izakaya's stingy single hour of late-night deals doubles on Friday and Saturday. This means you can nosh on a selection of 15 different \$3, \$4, or \$5 apps in the presence of Ultraman and your favorite *Cowboy Bebop* characters. Traditional Japanese drinks like house sake and yogurty chu hai (both \$5) match well with the selection of mini donburi rice bowls (\$5), and Zen Box has probably the best vegetarian after-hours menu, with 60 percent of the happy hour offerings served sans meat.

 $\textbf{Bang-to-buck ratio:}\ 5{:}1$

Pair this: A \$4 Kirin Ichiban and a \$5 chicken kara-age (50 percent off) is a hearty one-two combo that'll take the hanger out of your stupor before you Uber home to pass out.

ST. PAUL

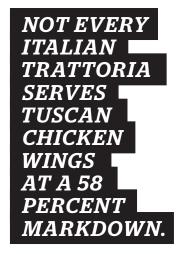
Groveland Tap

10 P.M. TO 1 A.M. DAILY 1834 ST. CLAIR AVE., 651-699-5058 GROVELANDTAP.COM

At Groveland Tap, it's basically happy hour from dinner to breakfast. And like its happy hour-happy sister restaurant the Lowry in Uptown, Groveland Tap is owned by Blue Plate Restaurants, a company that understands the siren song of ludicrously discounted alcohol. Freehouse (another Blue Plate outpost) and the Lowry have formidable deals, but the St. Paul side of the business sets the standard for practically giving away the bar after dark. Groveland is open 98 hours per week, and more than half of those hours feature specials on taps, wine,

and beer snacks.

The only real knock against Groveland Tap is that they don't have a full liquor license, but with a sustained late-nighter like this one, you're gonna want something a little more sessionable than a Long Island iced tea. Everything that comes out of the fryer goes down in price 35 percent to 47 percent once happy hour kicks on, which makes Groveland tap the ideal place for eating after dark, even if the drink selection isn't as competitive.



Bang-to-buck ratio: 11:2

Pair this: Nothing will thwart your hangover better than Groveland's beer snacks, many of which come at a sinister \$5 after 10 p.m. All Freehouse beers on the menu are knocked down to \$2.50 (50 percent off), so pick your favorite as a digestif.

Pazzaluna

9 P.M. TO 10 P.M. SUN. AND MON. 9 P.M. TO 11 P.M. TUES. TO THURS 9 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT FRI. AND SAT. 360 ST. PETER ST., 651-223-7000 PAZZALUNA.COM

Rarely will you see a white-tablecloth Italian trattoria in the running for the best place to snack and sip late at night, but then again, not every Italian trattoria serves Tuscan chicken wings at a 58 percent markdown. That's what makes St. Paul eatery Pazzaluna such a fantastic outlier in the culinary world. You can scarf the classics like spaghetti bolognese and indulge in the wine list — one of the most comprehensive in the Twin Cities — or you can drag your knuckles over to the bar where finger foods like zucchini fries and spiced olives (both \$5) and draft beer are king.

A huge knock against Pazzaluna's latenight price dive is that it doesn't include any drink specials. The afternoon happy hour (4 to 6 p.m. daily) cuts back on beer, wine, and cocktails, but after 9 p.m., only the food rings in at a lower rate. But holy shit, the food.



LUCY HAWTHORNE

Roasted garlic and gorgonzola bruschetta is a creamy Mediterranean dream that's yours for only \$5 (\$7 off). Four-cheese, margherita, or rustica pizzas (normally \$14-\$16) are knocked back to \$5 as well. In other words, the cutbacks on food are more than adequate to offset the cost of full-price drinking. Pazzaluna stipulates that you have to buy a drink to get the food deals, of course, but that was part of the plan already.

Bang-to-buck ratio: 3:2

Pair this: A Giant Stuffed Meatball gratuitously crammed with herbs and topped with sugo pomodoro sauce (\$5, 50 percent off) is the ultimate prize at Pazzaluna. Pair it with any red from the bar's extensive wine list. Toss in another fiver to follow up with a chocolate versato (\$2 off), you decadent bastard, you.

Blue Door Pub St. Paul

10 P.M. TO 11 P.M. SUN. TO THURS. 10 PM TO MIDNIGHT FRI AND SAT 1811 SELBY AVE., 651-493-1865 THEBDP.COM

Blue Door Longfellow has the longer happy hour, but with no wine or beer discounts, so the St. Paul location on Selby triumphs here. Blue Door is a comfortable little burger joint - the kind where you'd expect the meat to be red and the beer to be cheap. And that's the case every evening, even if it's for only nine hours per week.

Wings (30 percent off at \$7 for a pound and a half) come in 11 flavors if you're lookin' to get dirty, and baskets of finger foods like fried pickles and zucchini fries retail for a Lincoln. We docked them some points for hosting a marginally better deal during the afternoon happy hour, but we love the spirit of this American classic: Get patrons loaded and fed.

Bang-to-buck ratio: 3:1

Pair this: Buffalo chicken totchos (\$8, 20 percent off) are a Blue Door classic. Your Minnesotan palate will appreciate super late-night dining on a budget.

Dark Horse Bar & Eatery is good for

two or three \$3.50 tap pilsners after a plate of those. The more of them you drink, the more you save, kind of.

Dark Horse Bar & Eatery

11 P.M. TO 2 A.M. DAILY 250 E. SEVENTH ST., 651-313-7960 DARKHORSEBARANDEATERY.COM

Dark Horse is for late starters and late finishers. If you're the kind of adult who can make it to 11 p.m. without collapsing into the toilet bowl teeth-first, then you can probably appreciate the fact that Lowertown's buzzy new taphouse goes the distance to the legally mandated 2 a.m. last call on Friday and Saturday.

While late-night happy hour accounts for only 14 percent of Dark Horse's 107 weekly hours, they're a formidable 14 percent, and the bar's proximity to the Xcel Energy Center means it's always an option if you feel like taking your postgame buzz into overtime.

It's a shame that Dark Horse's daring artisan cocktails don't make the happy hour list, but there is a big break on Summit (\$3.50, \$2.50 off) and Henkell sparkling wine (\$4, \$3 off). Good news is you can have your druthers with their nouveau American food menu. Take, for example, their Korean barbeque mini shanks or their mango-jicama-dressed fish taco, both of which are cut down entree portions at a more digestible price (\$5).

Bang-to-buck ratio: 3:1

Pair this: You and a friend can stifle the ennui of an overpriced Adele concert or a bitter Wild trouncing by splitting a cheese pizza (\$8, \$2 off) and a couple consolingly cheap New Belgium Fat Tires (\$2.75 a can, a savings of 45 percent).





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BIG RIVER KEEP ON ROLLIN'

Lowertown's Big River is a mashup of all the things everyone loves about pizza



BY MECCA BOS

ot so very long ago here in the upper Midwest, pizza meant only a few things. It meant cheesy square-cut pies, cheesy triangle-cut pies, and cheesy frozen pies. And pizza being like sex in that it's good even when it's bad, we didn't mind! It's pizza, and some pizza is better than no

Now, in relatively no time at all, we're living in an upper Midwest where we speak in terms of crumb, gluten percentages, fermentation time, and wood-fire. We think nothing of how far we've come.

But we've come very far. And Steve Lott and his pizzeria, Big River Pizza, may be

the embodiment of a quintessential pizza crossroads, of Minnesota and Italy and beyond.

Lott calls his pies "Minneapolitan," a coming together of Neapolitan and Minnesotan. A quick primer on Neapolitanstyle pizza: It's delicate and crisp on the outside, tender and elastic within, cooked at a very high temperature in a wood-fired oven, sparingly topped, and considered by many the world over to be the ultimate pizza.

It's also a pizza most of us hadn't encountered even a decade ago unless we'd travelled to Naples, where it's a "protected designation of origin" (DOP) product. Meaning you can be heavily fined if you try to bastardize the real McCov.

At first glance, Big River seems to serve Neapolitan-style pizza. But Lott came by pizza the same way as many of us: as a Midwestern kid going to neighborhood pizzerias, the kind with jukeboxes and pitchers of beer and most definitely not overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Like you and me, some of his favorite local pies are from Dulono's and from Savoy, those cheesy, square-cut pepperoni and sausage pizzas made with relatively heavy dough.

"I mean, if a guy can't make a decent pepperoni pizza, we might as well break up right now," says Lott, cuttingly funny and deadpan. "There's no point going forward with the relationship."

The relationship he tries to have with his clientele is to be their "Pizza Spirit

BIG RIVER PIZZA

280 FIFTH ST. E., ST. PAUL 612-683-2186 menu items: \$7-\$25 bigriverpizza.com

God." How does one go about living up to the role of almighty Pizza Spirit God?

Lott tries to hang out in the front and get a read on folks. Did they come in because they heard about Big River's specialty pies, like the Chet, with a chili oil base, pork jowl, arugula, and lemon? Or, did they come in because they're hungry? "There's a difference," says Lott.

He asks where they like to eat their pizza (besides Big River, of course). If they're a Dulono's or Savoy kind of eater,



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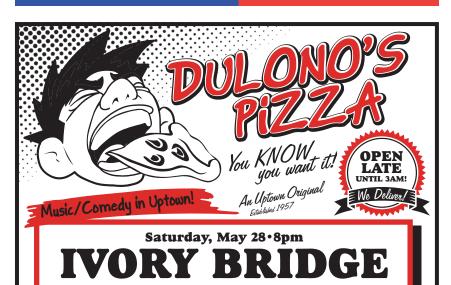
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he might hip them to the fact that he's happy to make them a Hawaiian pizza with the pineapple, or a Classic Supreme with everything including the kitchen sink, even though those kinds of pies aren't advertised on the menu.

Of course, the beauty of this is that you can choose your own pizza adventure, where one night you might want a Neapolitan Margherita, all fresh basil, pink slick of tomato, and little else; and the next, a gargantuan Supreme, heavy on the mozz. Either way, Big River has got you.

Lott is using an impressive, Italianimported Valoriani pizza oven, a handmade beauty designed for five generations to produce gold-standard DOP Neapolitan pizzas. It churns out a world-class crust with the crisp-chew lovers of Neapolitan pies crave (Lott calls it almost a "shell" that yields into the pillow beneath) and respectable char.

But that's not where he first started his pizza journey. He was coming from Chicago, where the neighborhood pies are heavier and cheesier and the dough is a little bit chewier.

In Naples, if you use anything other than the finely ground flour that the recipe demands, you're bastardizing the name of Neapolitan pie. But here, where there are no rules, Lott hybridizes his product by using the flour of a more Midwestern-style pizza (think heavier, wetter, chewier). With this hybrid he arrives at his proprietary "Minneapolitan" pizza - a little bit Naples, a little bit Minnesota. A lot delicious.

Admittedly, the geekiness of flours and doughs and how they differ can become a quagmire.

"It can get really fun, and it can also get really confusing," says Lott.

That's why we're so lucky to have the Pizza Spirit God in our midst, to keep the fun on our side and the confusion on his.

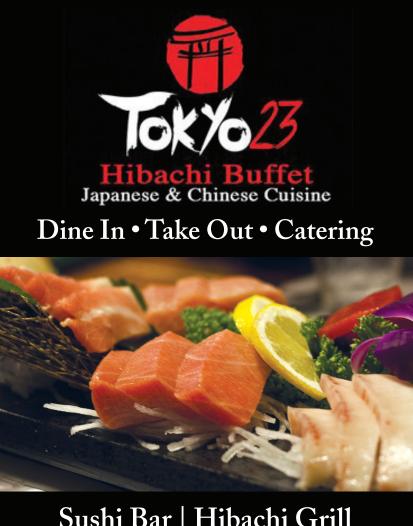
Some of the most fun to be had at Big River includes the Bacon Jam Slam, a relatively straightforward pie with crushed tomato, shredded mozz, white onion, and sausage. But then, your taste buds get an awakening jolt with bacon jam, a caramelized concoction that's pretty much what it sounds like — ultra sweet, smoky, and bewitching enough that you'll think of slathering it on breakfast toast.

We also love the textbook-perfect Proud Mary, their version of a Margherita, again with crushed tomato, fresh Italian mozzarella, and basil. The cheese melts into a gooey pool like liquid marshmallow. The center droop of the crust progresses into crisp-chew until you reach the outer edges, which graduate into aggressive char. The whole thing is an experience that you no longer need to travel to Naples for.

Lott started Big River as a roving pizza wagon at the farmers market, and he hasn't forgotten those roots. Watch closely as the pizzas change with the seasons. It's easy really, with Big River's proximity to the St. Paul Farmers' Market, visible from the massive dining room windows. He may be an old-school pizza guy, but Lott has a major soft spot for the likes of spring asparagus, ramps, and morels. Find all of them on his pies right about now.

From Chicago to the St. Paul Farmers' Market, and with the age-old influence of Neapolitan pizza tradition, the most important part of Lott's pizza journey is that now he's one of ours. A Minnesotan making Minneapolitan pizza. You won't find it anywhere else.

Pro tips: Big River is in the midst of adding charcuterie plates, starting an in-house sausage-making program, adding live music on weekends, and growing the dessert offerings. Keep an eye on them. They're always up to something big.



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SEPT. 1–4

UPCOMING

6/9 See U Next Thursday Feat. VONNIE KYLE, TONY PEACHKA, NIKI BECKER & MORE! 6/11 Jaedyn James & the Hunger Album Release w/ BIG WAVE DAVE & THE RIPPLES 7/15 Tab Benoit w/ FROGLEG 8/10...... Cabooze & AEG Present Flogging Molly w/ Frank Turner Cabooze Plaza Show 8/11 Guitar Legend Dick Dale w/ special guests REVOMATICS 8/19......Sawyer's Dream w/ THE RIVER HIGH, & HORSEPLAY

JACUZZI PUMA

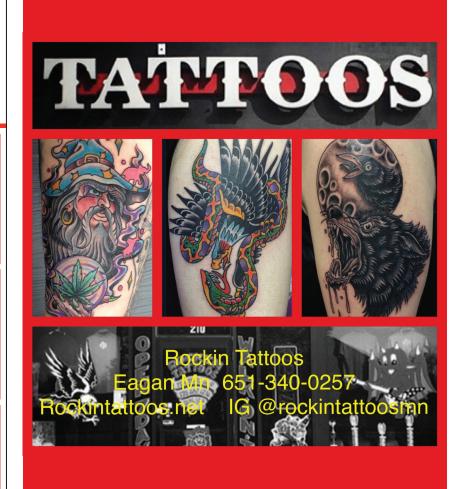
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5/25 ROGUE WAVE W/ HEY MARSEILLES 7:30PM

5/26 THE VIOLENT SHIFTERS, NIGHTOSAUR AND DEAD MAN BOYS CHOIR 7:30PM 5/27 THE TRASHMEN'S TONY ANDREASON WITH THE SURF DAWGS W/ THE ZINGRAYS 7PM

5/28 MARK MALLMAN W/ DIRTY FRAMES 9PM

5/29 OUTLAW BRUNCH 10AM-3PM (NO COVER/ALL AGES)

5/30 MEMORIAL DAY BRUNCH FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS 10AM-3PM (NO COVER/ALL AGES)

5/31 WAX IDOLS AND KING WOMAN W/ TOWER 7PM

6/01 MUTUAL BENEFIT W/ FLORIST, NOTHERN DARLING 7PM

6/02 BLUE OX MUSIC FESTIVAL PRE-PARTY W/ GINSTRINGS, EVERGREEN GRASS BAND 9PM

6/03 WHEELER WALKER JR. W/ BIRDCLOUD 7:30PM

6/04 TUNES 'N TOONS BRUNCH CLASSIC CARTOONS + DJ'S SPINNING VINYL 10AM-3PM (NO COVER/ALL AGES)

6/04 GRAND YOUNG DAY FT. THE MUSIC OF NEIL YOUNG 5PM

6/05 JAZZ BRUNCH FT. JAVIER SANTIAGO TRIO W/ DAN CARPEL, MIGUEL HURTADO 10AM-3PM (NO COVER/ALL AGES)

6/05 BEN NICHOLS W/ LEE BAINS 7:30PM

6/07 THE BLASTERS W/ MOLLY MAHER 7:30PM

6/10 ROBERT ELLIS W/ TOM BROSSEAU 8PM

6/11 FALCON CREST RECORD RELEASE W/ STNNNG, BUTCHERS UNION, SKIN OF EARTH 8PM

6/12 **ELIOT SUMNER** W/ CHEERLEADER, MURDER SHOES 7PM

6/14 THE PACK A.D. W/ KITTEN FOREVER 7PM

6/15 SONIC INTENSION 'BREAKFAST: PHASE ONE' RELEASE PARTY W/ DIVES, WILLIAM WITHIN 7PM

6/16 TECTONICS EP RELEASE SHOW W/ AUTUMN KID. RAINBOW BRUCE 7PM

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FRIDAY Tracy Morgan heads to Mystic Lake P. 27

SATURDAY Beer and crawfish at Bent P. 28

MONDAY TC Horror Fest offers a sneak peek P. 29

WEDNESDAY 5/25

COMEDY

ANGELO TSAROUCHAS

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY "I was the first comic ever to go to Greece and film a comedy special," says Angelo Tsarouchas, a Greek-Canadian who grew up in Ottawa, Ontario. It was long overdue, he adds. "I went back to Greece when my father had Alzheimer's, and before he got really bad, he said, 'Why don't you ever go to Greece and perform?"" Seventeen years after his father passed, Tsarouchas was performing in Athens. Though he is fluent in Greek, he performed in English. "But I sprinkled it with a little bit of feta," he notes. "The whole show was about growing up Greek outside of Greece to Greeks from Greece. I always keep an element of that in my regular show." People used to call it ethnic comedy, but Tsarouchas believes that audiences today just expect to hear about a comic's heritage, no matter what their ancestry is. "People like it," he says. "People kind of want the funny and want to be informed about something new. It's a combination of those two things. Now, because of the Information Age, I have fans all over the world. I, as a comic with a family, go wherever they want to send me. I don't care anymore where it is. Mongolia? Sure, I'll do a show there, let's roll." 18+; 21+ later shows. \$13-\$22. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday; 7 p.m. Sunday. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. Through Sunday -P.F. WILSON

THURSDAY 5/26

ART/GALLERY MAELSTROM

TUCKUNDER PROJECTS

TuckUnder Projects, the residential gallery inside and outside the home of artist/curator Pete Driessen, is back for another summer of exhibitions

in southwest Minneapolis. First up is a solo show featuring the work of MCAD adjunct professor Kim Benson in the main garage space. "Maelstrom," which takes its name from an early Dutch proper noun meaning "turning stream" or "whirlpool," navigates multiple actions and emotions that are happening simultaneously. Along with Benson's work, Kate Van Cleve will have another solo exhibition, "All the Way Home," in the Leaky Sink Gallery in the bathroom; Julia Helen Rice and Reid Oyen will engage in sculpture projects; and Meena Mangalvedhekar will show off her projections. Finally, as in years past, TuckUnder has invited artists to transform the raspberry patch in the backyard, creating a living, breathing — and most likely edible — work of art. There will be an opening reception from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, May 26. 5120 York Ave. S., Minneapolis; www.tuckunder.org. Through June 26 - SHEILA REGAN

FILM

JOAN VS. BETTE

HEIGHTS THEATER

Few modern-day celebrity rivalries measure up to the sheer contempt that screen legends Joan Crawford and Bette Davis held for one another. Joan vs. Bette, a five-film series, allows audiences to take a neutral position and simply marvel at the prowess of two of the most magnetic starlets in Hollywood history. Bette begins the series with Dark Victory (1939), a melodrama in which Davis' reckless heroine finds true love while battling a terminal illness. Joan enters the proceedings with Dancing Lady (1933), a sprightly pre-Code musical featuring Crawford as an aspiring dancer attempting to make it from burlesque to Broadway. The next week offers All About Eve (1950), featuring one of Davis' most celebrated roles as an aging actress fending off an ambitious young rival. Crawford follows up with The Damned Don't Cry (1950), a noir thriller centered on a bored housewife who abandons her husband to find excitement as a mobster's



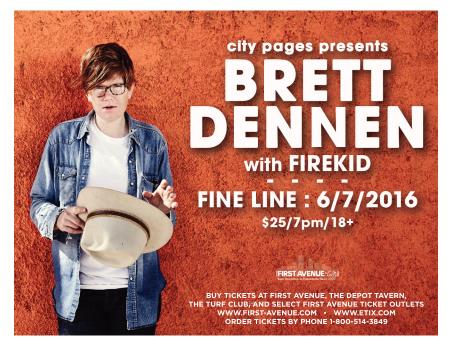
KIM BENSON, NIGHT GAME

mistress. The culmination of the series brings the two rivals together for the brilliantly unhinged *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* (1962) in which the co-stars' unrelenting animosity brought a palpable intensity to the tale of a wheelchair-bound

former child star under the care of her deranged sister. \$8.7:30 p.m. Thursdays. 3951 Central Ave. NE, Columbia Heights; 612-424-5468.

Through June 23 -BRAD RICHASON

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 ▶







CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ▶

ART/GALLERY CREATIVE CITYMAKING MINNEAPOLIS: THIS IS OUR CITY

INTERMEDIA ARTS

For several years, Intermedia Arts has been engaged in innovative public works that involve embedding artists in various city of Minneapolis departments to work toward a common goal: eliminating disparities that inhibit equality and opportunity. This work, called Creative CityMaking, has resulted in projects in north Minneapolis, Dinkytown, and elsewhere, and is is being showcased this summer via an interactive visual art exhibition at Intermedia. The show highlights the recent work of these collaborative processes by sharing the tools and methods artists and city staff developed for equitable creative placemaking. Visitors will be able to contribute their own voices to the work through an "equity pulpit" built with youth from Juxtaposition Arts. The exhibition will move to Minneapolis City Hall after closing in August at Intermedia. There will be a public reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, May 26. 2822 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-871-4444.

Through August 13 - CAMILLE LEFEVRE

LITERARY LINDA LEGARDE GROVER

MAGERS & QUINN BOOKSELLERS Author Linda LeGarde Grover arrived at the topic of her book The Road Back to Sweetgrass through doctoral research that covered U.S. federal

American Indian policies of the late 1900s. Allotment, a damaging government tactic that divided Indian land and allowed it to be sold to non-Native people, triggered a massive loss among the Anishinaabe and eroded tribal management. It is under these circumstances that three female characters in Sweetgrass grapple with coming-of-age issues, questions of identity and Indian "authenticity," and redefining home on the fictional Mozhav Point reservation in northern Minnesota. Beginning in the 1970s and told in a non-linear fashion, the novel incorporates the Ojibwe language and lifeways such as the wild rice harvest and maple syruping, allowing the reader an intimate look at how Native people have endured despite the effects of harmful policies and historical trauma on individuals and families in their communities. Grover, who is a member of the Bois Forte band of Ojibwe, teaches American Indian studies at the University of Minnesota in Duluth. Free. 7 p.m. 3038 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-822-4611. -ERICA RIVERA

SPORTS SKYLINE MINI GOLF

WALKER ART CENTER

Drinking and dining on a rooftop patio is one of the perks of summertime, but what about mini-golfing? That's what you'll be able to do this season as the Walker Art Center's annual artsy minigolf moves to the clouds (or balconies, actually). The Minneapolis Sculpture Garden and the Walker's grassy hill are currently getting a massive makeover. Up on the rooftop terraces, however,



Mini-golf moves to the rooftop to avoid construction.

COURTESY WALKER ART CENTER

you'll be able to play nine holes while taking in views of downtown, Loring Park, and road construction (hey, at least you're not driving in it at the moment). Returning holes this year include Aaron Dysart's musical Rock! Garden., giant hot-dog Let's Be Frank, and the Warholinspired Thrillo-Brillo. Tickets score you admission to the galleries as well, so it's easy to make a day of it. Get course and weather updates at walkerart. org/minigolf. \$12.11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursdays; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays. 1750 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-375-7600. Through September 4 - JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

OPEN HOUSE

ALL MY RELATIONS GALLERY

This Thursday, All My Relations Gallery will be throwing a party that is part closing reception, part open house. This will be your last chance to check out "Synthesis," a cool art show featuring the work of Aza Erdrich, in which she explores personal narratives as well as her Native and non-Native ancestry. The celebration will feature live music from Chastity Brown, who will be touring with Ani DiFranco this summer. Tatanka Truck will be serving up indigenous eats, and there will also be art activities. Free. 5 to 7 p.m. 1414 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-872-4700. – JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

FRIDAY 5/27

COMEDY

TRACY MORGAN

MYSTIC LAKE CASINO

Tracy Morgan knows about pain. After a horrendous accident that claimed

the life of one of his closest friends, and nearly took Morgan's own life in the process, the comedian is putting the pieces back together and laughing in the face of tragedy. "I learned that you can't control tomorrow," he says of his new outlook on life and comedy. "I control today and what I do with it." That's been his philosophy during his latest standup tour, which rolls through Mystic Lake Casino this weekend, the first since recovering from the accident. And while plenty of people will throw around words like "inspirational" and "brave," the former 30 Rock and SNL star only wants to be called one thing. "People come up to me and they care. They're like, 'You all right? Good. Get back to being funny." Even coming off of such a traumatic period, his larger-than-life personality and sense of humor are still as alive as ever. "I'm brand new. I'm better than ever. I'm funnier than ever." \$39-\$49. 8 p.m. 2400 Mystic Lake Blvd., Prior Lake; 952.445.9000. - PATRICK STRAIT

ART/GALLERY HULDUFÓLK ICELAND EXHIBITION

LIGHT GREY ART LAB

In 2015, through a residency organized by Minneapolis-based Light Grey Art Lab, a group of international artists took a journey to Iceland to explore the culture and icy landscape of that far north country. This week, those artists' work will be exhibited at a show that highlights the storytelling, tall tales, and culture of Iceland through illustrations, book projects, and photography inspired by their journey. The show's title,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 ▶









DANCE NIC LINCOLN DANCES: THE HARDEST WORD

BRYANT-LAKE BOWL THEATER

Celebrating 20 years of dance at the Bryant-Lake Bowl Theater, Nic Lincoln and Penelope Freeh explore and expose the vibrant veneers of the 1980s. "The Hardest Word" references Better Homes and Gardens, wedding pictures, '80s music, and lots more. Expect glitz and glamour



ERIK SAULITIS

galore, and hints of what those hardest words might be: Sorry? Yes/no? Goodbye? Maybe even love? Presented by Nic Lincoln Dances, this duet, custom-made for BLB's tiny stage, promises plenty of wit, style, and performance savvy. \$10-\$15 sliding scale. 7 p.m. Friday through Sunday. 810 W. Lake St., Minneapolis; 612-825-3737. Through Sunday —LINDA SHAPIRO

CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ▶

"Huldufólk Iceland Exhibition," comes from a word used for elves, fairies, and small creatures from Icelandic mythology. The opening reception includes an artist's talk with participant Justin Oaksford, a Seattle-based artist and illustrator, from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, May 27 (the talk is at 7 p.m.). 118 E. 26th St., Minneapolis; 612-239-2047. **Through June 25 — SHEILA REGAN**

ART/DANCE EROTIC CITY

CO EXHIBITIONS

Soundset, a music festival organized by Rhymesayers Entertainment celebrating all things hip-hop, is happening this weekend. While the concerts will take place at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, CO Exhibitions in northeast Minneapolis will be hosting an art party showcasing another form of expression closely connected to hip-hop: graffiti. "Erotic City" marks the second year for the exhibition, which includes work from 18 talented folks from around the country. While you can spot their work across the U.S. on buildings, subways, train cars, and sidewalks, on display this weekend will be more traditional pieces, such as paintings, drawings, and limited-edition prints. Check them out here and then spot the work in the wild. This isn't the only Soundset art show happening this evening,

however. Over at the former First Tech space (2640 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis) is "Headshots (Lightning Blend) RSE20," an exhibition by photographer Dan Monick and curator Kristoffer Knutson. Here you can check out behind-the-scenes images from Rhymesayers' 2015 20th-anniversary show at Target Center, recently found photography, prints, and limited-edition zines at the reception on Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. (artwork will be on display through Monday). Free. 5 to 10 p.m. 1101 Stinson Blvd. NE, Minneapolis; 612-379-4151. –JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

SATURDAY 5/28

FOOD AND DRINK

2ND ANNUAL BAYOU AND BEER CRAWFISH BOIL

BENT BREWSTILLERY

For Bent Brewstillery's Bartley Blume, who was raised in Alabama, Memorial Day weekend means it's time for a crawfish boil. Right now he has 400 pounds of live Louisiana crawdads on order, to be complemented with Bent's own beer. "I brought that tradition with me to Minnesota, and had a crawfish boil at my house every Memorial Day weekend," Blume says. Taking his homebrew pro didn't stop the tradition, it just increased the scale. To pair with this Saturday's boil, Bent will serve a new white IPA. There will also be custom T-shirt printing during the

day. \$12 for a plate and a pint. Noon to 11 p.m. 1744 Terrace Dr., Roseville; 844-879-2368. —LOREN GREEN

COMEDY

CALEB SYNAN AND KYLE AYERS

ACME COMEDY CO.

It's a two-for-one special at Acme Comedy Co. when comedians Kyle Ayers and Caleb Synan co-headline the club. "We both were new faces at the Just for Laughs Festival in Montreal last year," explains Synan. "He's a funny guy, and I'm a funny guy, and we got along, and sometimes the crowd wants two straight white guys." Synan notes one key difference between the two. "One of us is from New York and one of us is from L.A." However, that is not accurate. Synan is originally from northern Georgia, while Ayers is from the suburbs of Kansas City, Missouri. While not at the forefront of his set, Ayer's Midwestern background is always there, bubbling underneath. "Even if I don't reference it onstage, people will ask, 'Where are you from?' They'll know I'm not from there after listening to my set." When he says he is from Missouri, especially in New York where he lives now, people nod

knowingly and say, "I thought so." He still feels like a midwesterner at heart though. "I've been in New York for five years now and still don't feel anything seeping in as far as unjustified anger." 18+. \$15-\$18. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. Wednesday through Saturday —P.F. WILSON

MONDAY 5/30

PARTY

HELLRAISER II: THE RETURN OF HELLRAISER

THE SOUTHERN THEATER

Like some kind of unholy mutation of the Fringe Festival in which every production oozes spine-chilling delights, the Twin Cities Horror Festival has swiftly become a popular autumnal draw by offering tantalizing frights encompassing original plays and fresh adaptations, live radio broadcasts, storytelling, cabaret, and multimedia works that defy description. Conjuring such scares comes with a price tag, however, one that organizers hope to defray in part with Hellraiser II: The Return of Hellraiser. Like last year's event, this



COURTESY THE STANDUR

one-night fundraiser asks attendees to contribute not their earthly souls, but a modest \$10. In return, revelers are treated to an evening of merrily morbid festivities such as carnival games, hors d'oeuvres, and a spooky silent auction. The marquee moment of the evening is likely to be the eagerly anticipated announcement of which shows

will be featured in the 2016 Horror Festival. Not only will attendees have contributed to one of the most wonderfully eccentric traditions of Twin Cities theater, but they will leave forewarned of the horrors yet to come. For more info, visit www. tchorrorfestival.com. \$10.6 to 9 p.m. 1420 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis; 612-326-1811. —BRAD RICHASON



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THE WORLD NEEDS A VILLAIN

X-Men: Apocalypse isn't the end — how could it be?



COURTESY TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

BY MICHAEL NORDINE

esperate times call for desperate measures — except in superhero movies. The genre's very existence depends on half-measures: Characters die, only to return when narrative expedience demands it. Every supposed conclusion is actually the setup for yet another sequel or reboot.

When last we saw the uncanny X-Men, Bryan Singer was retconning much of what had occurred in the previous two films via a convoluted (if entertaining) timetravel deus ex machina. In that sense, *Days of Future Past* represented the best and worst of superhero movies all at once. We complain when a 300-page book adaptation is split into multiple films, but that's been the comic-book-movie model since its inception. In the name of strengthening whichever cinematic universe these stories take place in, only so much is allowed to happen in a given film.

X-Men: Apocalypse is the third movie released in the last two months to feature superheroes fighting among themselves. In its way, it's also the best. *Batman v Superman* was a mess; *Captain*

America: Civil War's infighting felt like an endless game of rock, paper, scissors in which rock didn't beat scissors, paper didn't beat rock, and scissors didn't beat paper. Marvel's assembly-line approach to the Avengers mythos is streamlined and consistent, but other than having a godlike character literally named Vision it tends to lack just that.

So while *X-Men: Apocalypse* is uneven and grandiose, it does at least reach toward the heavens and present its heroes with an existential threat from without.

That would be En Sabah Nur, the Ur-mutant played by Oscar Isaac who in his current form is called (you guessed it) Apocalypse. From the past come whispers of him, the kind of godlike figure faceless subjects chant for and all others fear; for once, the legends are true: Apocalypse is the wellspring from which all other mutants flow. Little distinguishes a superhero franchise from one film to the next beyond its villains, and on that front this latest X-Men does feel like a high-water mark.

We're first introduced to Apocalypse several thousands of years ago in Egypt, flanked as always by four lesser mutants — or horsemen, as they're called in order to extend the metaphor — who protect him as he transfers his consciousness from one vessel to the next. The ceremony is interrupted by would-be assassins, forcing Apocalypse to go into a sort of hibernation. He is perhaps the most powerful being of his kind ever, which means that, upon his conveniently timed awakening in the present day, it'll take slightly more work for Professor Xavier (James McAvoy) and his students to dispatch their newest foe than it usually does.

Apocalypse has actual gravitas about him, an aura that gives the impression of a dormant adversary who's risen from slumber to reclaim what's his. Isaac suffers through what must be the most grandiose declarations a supervillain has ever uttered onscreen ("You can fire your arrows from the Tower of Babel, but you can never strike God") and almost makes you believe them. There may be no actor in Hollywood with more goodwill at this moment, essentially making him the only candidate for the role — few others could convince us not to laugh out of sheer politeness.

Everything else is much the same. Magneto is still wavering between good and bad, with Michael Fassbender rendering X-MEN: APOCALYPSE

directed by Bryan Singer opens Friday, area theaters

his suffering as tortured as ever; Professor X is still urging his old friend back to the light. There are new faces, each played by capable young actors — Sophie Turner as Jean Grey, Tye Sheridan as Cyclops, Kodi Smit-McPhee as Nightcrawler — whose task within the film is the same as it is at Xavier's Academy for Gifted Youngsters: showcase their unique talents while also conforming to the us-against-them milieu.

The longer X-Men has gone on, the deeper it's mined its own past for meaning. Mutants are inherently more fascinating than most superheroes by virtue of the fact that they were born this way and are known publicly by a fearful populace; their code names are more a shared language among themselves than secret identities. Apocalypse isn't the end — how could it be in a genre that, by definition, is ongoing? But it is the rare comic-book film that, like its antagonist, absorbs the knowledge of its lesser peers and inspires a few moments of genuine awe.





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Mark Blaxill on Sun. 5/29 after the 4:30 & 7:15pm shows.

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BOXED IN

Sandbox Theatre's Queens seeks freedom in the ring



BY JAY GABLER

andbox Theatre's Queens is the story of a fighter: a scrappy boxer who takes punches for money because, for reasons both financial and psychological, he has to. The show has many of the tropes of the boxing genre the feisty trainer, the worried girlfriend, the Last Big Fight, even the signature anthem - but Queens is no ordinary palooka story.

For one thing, there's the setting. Raymond Queens is a black man in America, sometime between the Civil War and Civil Rights. Having witnessed the aftermath of a horrific incident of racially motivated violence, Raymond's trainer Al describes an ongoing struggle for African Americans to keep ownership of their own bodies; the relationships among body, spirit, and society are at the core of Queens.

Queens is also distinguished by the form it takes. It's a collaboratively created play, unfolding in a poetic, dreamlike series of episodes. The show's three actors - Theo Langason (who co-directed, with Matthew Glover), Neal Hazard, and Emily Madigan each play multiple roles as scenes tumble into one another on a square boxing ring that's often lit in a golden hue.

The eponymous role is split: In the first act, the young fighter is played by Langason, and Hazard assumes the role for Raymond's later years in the second act. There's a wide gulf between the two Raymonds, one young and hopeful, the other middle-aged and world-weary, and the production never quite closes the gap between them. Ulti-

QUEENS

Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Pl., St. Paul Through June 4: 651-291-7005

mately, though, this is a show that's about moments more than it's about lifetimes, and it's in those moments that its heart insistently beats.

With the invaluable contribution of deVon Gray playing his original score live on keyboard, the actors perform carefully choreographed scenes that feel more like dance duets than like traditional drama. Relationships between men recede into the background, with Madigan's confident characterizations of the women in Raymond's life — his mother, his childhood girlfriend, a prostitute who becomes his soulmate — moving to the center.

A conventionally scripted play might have tightened the story's structure. If you're willing to set aside your expectations of a conventional narrative, though, you'll find a show built on trust — trust among the performers, trust in the material, and trust in the audience.

Much of what happens in Queens involves the actors quietly occupying these characters; we watch them as they try to figure out what to make of each other, and of themselves. In today's world, where the cacophonous struggles of ultimate fighting are ascendant, Queens suggests that the comparatively elegant business of boxing was a place where men once sought clarity and justice that was nowhere to be found outside the ring.





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RHYMERS ON THE RISE

Meet four Soundset acts poised to blow up following Minnesota's marquee hip-hop festival

BY RAGHAV MEHTA

romchart-toppers like A\$AP Rocky and Future to veterans like Common and the Roots, even the most casual rap fans can find something to enjoy at Soundset 2016. Freshly relocated to the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, the Midwest's premier rap festival has attracted more and more A-listers since launching in 2008. But the organizers at Rhymesayers Entertainment haven't turned a blind eye to the buzzing talent that first defined their pioneering, Minnesota-based label and Soundset. Here are four must-see upand-comers to catch this Sunday.

Anderson .Paak

Anderson .Paak netted high praise for his ubiquitous presence on Dr. Dre's 2015 comeback album, *Compton*. The spry, Cali-bred musical savant appeared on six of *Compton*'s 16 tracks, adding some much-needed levity and falsetto on an exhaustively serious LP. Any concerns that .Paak overextended himself were quelled by his second solo album, *Malibu*, which contains no dearth of ideas and ambition.

The album, .Paak's first release on Dre's Aftermath label, received a low-key January release that felt largely unnoticed despite unanimous critical acclaim. Featuring guest spots from West Coast brethren the Game and Soundset alumnus Schoolboy Q. *Malibu* is a sprawling, spacey deluge of soul-infused hip-hop. Production-wise, it's teeming with lush arrangements as dense as its best verses. *Malibu* is convivial, sentimental, and something of a minor masterpiece.

Keep an eye on .Paak. He's made it clear he's not going anyway anytime soon.

Finding Novyon

Finding Novyon is at the forefront of a Midwest rap renaissance. The locally based rhymeslayer had a banner year in 2015, even scoring coverage from Pitchfork and esteemed hip-hop blog Pigeons and Planes. His much-delayed and much-buzzedabout 2015 mixtape, #TheFoodNetwork, finds Novyon in good company. Friend and Kanye-approved Grammy nominee Allan Kingdom, plus fellow locals Psymun, DJ



Frank Castle, and Metasota are among his collaborators.

In 2011, Novyon caught the attention of the brass at Cash Money Records, but he maintained his autonomy. "It's so tight, I love it so much," he told City Pages last fall, expressing excitement for the new class of Twin Cities rappers. "I feel like now that we're achieving things a lot faster than a lot of other artists have before, it's jump-starting people to pay more attention. It's gonna be interesting who comes up next. We're still young as fuck."

And given the blogosphere's reaction to #TheFoodNetwork, it sounds like Weezy was onto something. On record, Novyon showcases an impressive amount of range and lyrical maturity as he vacillates between abrasive and contemplative. The result is a varied, dynamic, and fully cohesive mixtape.

Mick Jenkins

Mick Jenkins is an esteemed veteran of the Chicago underground, but he would have no problem fitting in at Rhymesayers. Much like local MCs Blueprint and the late Eyedea, Jenkins is a brooder. His 2014 album, *The Water[s]*, is a heady mix of neurotic rambling that waxes intellectual and poetic without missing a beat — liter-

ally and figuratively.

What's most compelling about Jenkins is that he operates in this nebulous space, a potential crossover success who seems indifferent about crossing over. He's a rapper committed to his scruples, too. "I just thought [Kanye West's My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy] was very misogynistic. I'm big on content and I could not fuck with that content," Jenkins bluntly told Complex last year.

Jenkins' 2015 sophomore album, the aptly titled *Wave[s]*, is less dismal content-wise, but retains the urgency and polish that made him so intriguing in the first place. While Jenkins can feel muddled and preachy at times, he more than atones for it with relentless wordplay and uniquely cerebral lyricism.

DJ Tiiiiiiiiiip

"I'm not a normal motherfucker. I don't like to get on the mic and talk at my shows," DJ Tiiiiiiiiiiip told City Pages last year (yes, that's 10 I's and nine of them are silent). The producer made a name for himself as the ringleader of seemingly defunct rap crew Audio Perm, but he's been grinding on the local rap circuit since he was 17.

If you've stumbled into any local hip-

hop shows in the past two years, odds are you've encountered Tiiiiiiiiip. The young DJ is a ubiquitous and vital presence in a scene that's brimming with talent and buzz. Among Tiiiiiiiiip's projects and roles: frequent collaborator with Bobby Raps, official DJ for rap supergroup the St4ndrd, and freewheelin' party DJ. He'll hit Soundset fresh off touring Europe with fellow local Allan Kingdom.

He's also endearingly goofy. Don't believe us? Check out Tiiiiiiiiip's tips for Soundset below.

DJ TIIIIIIIIIP'S 10 TIPS FOR SOUNDSET

- **1. Have as much fun as possible!** This is one of the only all hip-hop festivals left in the U.S., one of the biggest in the world, and it's in Minnesota!
- **2. Open your mind to new music!** If you're a hardcore hip-hop head, give Future a chance! If you only listen to newer hip-hop, check out Common or the Roots! The organizers do an excellent job curating the lineup; try to appreciate all forms of hip-hop!
- **3. Drink a lot of water!** And bring empty bottles.







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Battlecross

5pm • Hall Stage • \$15 • 16+

FRIDAY, MAY 27

Trivia Mafia's

Drinking Spelling Bee

7pm • Bar Stage • \$7 • 21+

Kweku Collins, Why Khaliq, Lucien Parker, dannylions 10pm • Hall Stage • \$8 ADV/\$10 DOOR • 18+

SATURDAY, MAY 28

Trashcan Sinatras

7pm GA Doors • Hall Stage • 21+ GA: \$18 ADV/\$20 DOOR, VIP: \$50

SUNDAY, MAY 29

Trivia Mafia's Brunch Trivia

12pm • Bar Stage

The Commons 5pm • Hall Stage • AA

Post Atomic Trio 8:30pm • Bar Stage • 21+

MONDAY, MAY 30

Trivia Mafia w/ Jiffy & Kryssy

7pm • Bar Stage • 18+

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wed : may 25 7pm: kfai house party presents.. moonlight duo 9:30pm : jesse damien revel,

thu: may 26 9:30pm: mother banjo, steve kaul & the brass kings

brady perl, wailing loons

fri : may 27 7pm : laura and sean's movie and music trivia

10pm : sloslylove, astronomique (cd release), two castles/sniffle party

sat : may 28

7pm : trivia mafia presents... 331 drinkin' spelling bee 10pm : dead bundy and the neat neat neats and dj lazer bob

> sun : may 29 8pm : trivia mafia

mon: may 30 8pm: the roe family singers10pm: doug otto and friends

tue : may 31

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- 4. Check out the local acts! This year the local lineup is especially stacked: Finding Novyon, Baby Shel, plus Lexii Alijai — all are poised for greatness! Strong support from local legends like Doomtree, Prof. and Lizzo as well.
- 5. Move around! In addition to the solid main lineup, Soundset has an open mic, skate park setup (s/o to Familia), production showcase, B-boy/B-girl competition, graffiti showcase, and a car show!
- 6. Grab one of them schedule booklets! Set alerts in your phone for all the sets you want to see so you won't miss anyone!
- 7. If your group of friends is being lame, **desert them!** Make some new friends – everyone is there to have fun. You paid \$60, don't let anyone squander your investment.
- 8. Wear clothes you don't care about! They will most likely be ruined.
- 9. If you see anyone from Rhymesayers, thank them! None of this would be possible without them! Cities would literally kill other cities to have something like this!
- 10. Must-see sets! Future, Anderson .Paak, Post Malone, Pouya, Goldlink, DJ Marley Marl, everyone listed above, plus

CRITICS' PICKS

KWEKU COLLINS AND WHY KHALIO

AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL, FRIDAY 5.27 Kweku Collins and Why Khaliq are both having the best years of their young careers, jolting their respective hip-hop scenes with new energy. Oddly, they've done so with music that isn't particularly loud or blustery. On his new album, Nat Love, Evanston, Illinois' Collins emerges as one of the Chicago area's freshest originals. His combo of thoughtful verses, melodic intuition, and warm/self-produced beats is reminiscent of Chance the Rapper (although limiting either to the confines of "rapper" is a creative disservice). Meanwhile, St. Paul's Khaliq is one of the brightest hopes for Twin Cities hip-hop, period. His Under the Perspective Tree EP from this year is full of depth, especially for a sub-20-minute release. That's partly due to Khaliq's whipsmart yet swaggering lyricism, Lelan Foley's jazz- and soul-influenced production, and cinematic interludes. Khaliq's WhyWednesdays new-release series is also gaining him traction locally and beyond. With Boathouse, Lucien Parker, and Dannylions. 18+. \$8-\$10. 9 p.m. 6 Sixth St. W., St. Paul; 612-285-3112. -MICHAEL MADDEN

MEMORY LANES BLOCK PARTY

MEMORY LANES, SATURDAY 5.28 & SUNDAY 5.29

It's hard to think of a place where you can catch back-to-back days of great local bands and bowl a perfect game at the same time. But if you've got a hankering for that weirdly specific combination of activities, look no further than the Memory Lanes Block Party. Blisteringhip-hop trio Mixed Blood Majority headline the outdoor stage on Day 1. After scoring a spot in First Avenue's Best New Bands 2015 lineup, rousing prog-soul/rap fusionist Eric Mayson will also light it up outside, followed by indoor performances from electro-poppers Tiny Deaths, alt-rap

kids Beasthead, and Dead Disco. Bones & Beeker, Little Fevers, B.O.Y.F., Cherry Cola, What Tyrants, and Murder Shoes will all rock the outdoor stage. Longtime Kentucky rockabilly shit-starters the Legendary Shack Shakers headline Day 2, following performances from fellow Kentuckian Jessica Lee Wilkes, indie-rockers Fury Things, and blues-punk outfit Crankshaft and the Gear Grinders. The Toxenes, and Jaedyn James & the Hunger also perform outside, with Davina and the Vagabonds and Hipshaker DJ Brian Engel shutting things down inside the alley. \$5.3 p.m.-midnight. 2520 26th Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-721-6211. - JARED HEMMING

LORD HURON AND NATHANIEL RATELIFF & THE NIGHT SWEATS

NORTHROP, TUESDAY 5.31

This doubleheader sports a pair of bands doing idiosyncratic things with Americana roots. Lord Huron sprang from the fervent imagination of Bob Schneider, a Michigan native now living in L.A. A trip home spawned some songs inspired by the wonders of nature, which evolved into a full band and a pair of albums. The latest, 2015's Strange Trails, has an amiable folk-rock sound, a sinewy undercurrent, vestiges of imaginary Westerns, and a harrowing, cinematic narrative that suggests an obsession with The X-Files and zombies. Although often set in bucolic locales, the songs are riddled with ghosts, curses, threats, and violence. They're scary, Quentin Tarantino-esque campfire tales sometimes oddly juxtaposed with the jaunty music. Nathaniel Rateliff toiled on the folkie wing of Americana before recasting himself as a gospel-soaked soul man extraordinaire last year. His band's raw, horn-driven stew of classic R&B streaked with honky-tonk is epitomized by gloriously infectious breakout single, "S.O.B." Rateliff & Co. will play Rock the Garden in June. \$35. 7:30 p.m. 84 Church St. SE, Minneapolis; 612-624-2345. -RICK MASON















Identity Cards

Do I have to call my trans ex "him"?

am a 40-year-old woman; I came out when I was 16. When I was 17, I met M and we dated for eight years. M was a horrible human being — emotionally and occasionally physically abusive. M still sends me the occasional (creepy) email, wishing me a happy birthday or giving me updates on people I don't really recall. I don't respond. A few years back, I got an email saying that M was now "Mike." I think it's important to use the pronouns people want you to use for them. But Mike wasn't Mike when he was in my life. Changing his pronoun when describing him feels like I'm changing my identity - my first real long-term relationship was with someone I thought was a woman. Mike caused a lot of damage in my life - does he get to fuck up (or complicate) my identity, too? It's not like the subject of Mike comes up daily. When it does, I feel like a liar if I use "she," using "he" makes me feel like I'm lying about myself, and stopping to explain everything derails the conversation. And it's not like I'm being a great trans ally when a conversation gets sidelined by something like: "Well, random co-worker whose only trans reference is Caitlyn Jenner, my ex is trans and he's a psychopath."

MIKE'S HARD LEMONADE

Block Mike's number, block his email address, block him on Twitter, Facebook. Instagram, etc., etc., etc., ad infinitum.

And stop talking about Mike - don't discuss him with random co-workers, casual acquaintances, or friends. If you absolutely, positively must discuss him with someone — a true intimate with a right to your relationship history — you can be a good ally to other trans people (not your abusive trans ex) by carefully using nouns and descriptors in place of your asshole ex's preferred pronouns. So instead of "I met him when I was still a teenager," you say, "I met the abusive piece of shit when I was still a teenager."

What I'm gonna say next will get me slammed on Twitter (heavens), but I've learned not to read my @s, so here we go....

If using male pronouns when referring to your ex is gonna complicate your life really complicate it — if the "transitioned later" part is likely to get dropped during a game of interoffice telephone, if the qualifier



Dan Savage

about your ex having identified as a woman while you were together is likely to get dropped too, and if either of those drops could lead people to assume something about you that isn't true, i.e., that you're into dudes and therefore gettable by dudes, and if that erroneous assumption could result in awkward and/or unpleasant advances from confused males, or if having your status as a Gold Star Lesbian questioned could induce orientational dysphoria... I don't see the nontheoretical harm in you - and only you - misgendering Mike on the rare occasion when a convo about him can't be avoided. You don't live near him, no one you know knows him, and the misgendering is unlikely to get back to him. The adage "no harm, no foul" applies here.

But it would be simpler, easier, and ally-ier if you sidestepped the issue by not speaking to anyone about your asshole ex ever again.

I am a fortysomething bi woman happily married to a newly transitioned fiftyish trans woman. Our sex life is loving and good mostly, but I do want more. There have been discussions on opening up our relationship, but she is resistant. I want to do this with transparency and with men (mostly), but I don't feel this is realistic emotionally for her given some conflict we've had over this issue. *Is cheating the only answer here?*

NEVER OVERLY TERRIFIED

I can see how it might be emotionally tricky for a recently transitioned trans woman — that would be your wife — to cheerfully sign off on her wife sleeping with men (mostly) and with transparency (ethically). But if you absolutely, positively can't commit to sleeping with only her for the rest of your life, NOT, and you can't get her permission to sleep with others... then, yes, there's cheating. There's also fantasy, masturbation, repression, sublimation, self-sacrifice - and divorce.

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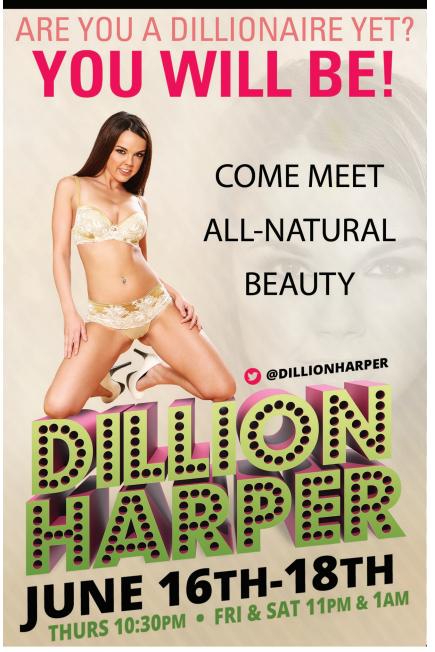


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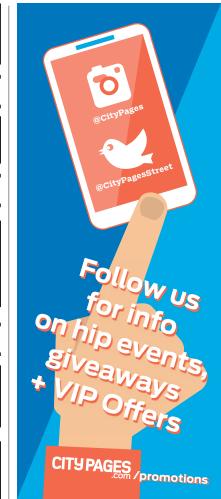
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ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1. Bender, on "Futurama"
- High volleyball shot
- Measure that resulted in English, French, and Spanish labeling on goods
- 14. Occupied
- 15. Big stir
- 16. French actor Delon
- 17. "Beau
- Big weight 18.
- Humdinger
- First work published with movable type
- Character in a trenchcoat and fedora, probably
- Reason for some political scandals
- Ready: The Business of Singing" (career guide with a punny title)
- Money's uncle?
- 27. Germanic outcry
- Lend for a short while
- Concentration of some ballerinas
- 35. Sweening
- Luke and Leia's dad, for short
- 38. Clean break?
- 41. Irish dance
- Abstract expressionist painter Franz
- 43. Showered attention (on)
- Q: How many kids with does it take to change a lightbulb? A: Wanna ride bikes?
- 46. Brewpub selection
- 47. Bloodtyping letters
- 48. Suburban area

- 50. Tablet's system
- "___ Ho" ("Slumdog Millionaire" showstopper)
- Classic line from a magician
- Like hackneyed writing
- Haw's partner
- eBook category "Sexy"
- "White Album" girl
- Mr. Butterfingers
- Cheer up
- Get down to look underneath the couch, e.g.
- Existential question
- Lacoste and Descartes

- Gibson's "Lethal Weapon" role
- Video game extender
- With a substantial rack 3.
- Bone: pref.
- Swag, YOLO, and the like
- Glove material
- Wet sneakers, e.g.
- High point?
- Low point
- Out lines? 10.
- Collapse 11.
- Floor covering? 12.
- 13. __ ideas?"
- 21. Sacramento paper
- Persian faith 22.
- Beer pong shot path
- Disney on Ice venue,
- often
- Web developer's output
- First word of "A

- Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man"
- 50-50, say
- Peninsula of Mexico 32.
- In the thick of
- Starboard, e.g. 34. Sign of life on a radar
- Movie pirate's device 36.
- Russian pancake 39.
- 40. Tic-Tac-Toe line
- "Here Comes My Baby Back Again" singer West
- TV father of Anoop, Uma, Nabendu, Poonam, Priva, Sandeep, Sashi, and Gheet
- Cheese serving
- Like your favorite pair of jeans
- Jakarta resident
- Mountain ridge
- Does nothing
- Rial estate? 55.
- **Hulu selection**
- "Damn straight"
- ___ Haan shoes 57.
- "Naughty!"

Last Week's Answer

U	S	Н	Ε	R		S	0	В	Α		Т	R	0	Т
R	Н	0	D	Α		Τ	S	В	Ν		Н	Ε	Р	Α
В	Α	Κ	Τ	Ν	G	Х	R	Α	Υ		Ι	М	Τ	Ν
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